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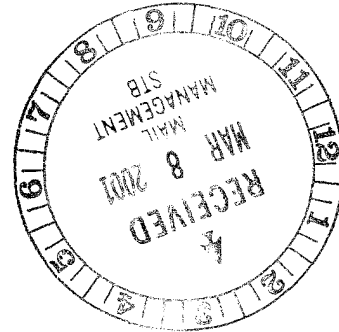
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March 8, 2001

Mr. Vernon Williams
Office of the Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



Re: STB Ex Parte No. 582 (Sub-No. 1) Oral Argument

Via Hand Delivery

Dear Mr. Williams:

Williams Energy Services (Williams) hereby requests the opportunity to present oral argument on April 5, 2001 in Ex Parte 582 (Sub-No.1), Major Rail Consolidation Procedures.

In accordance with the STB decision served February 23, 2001, Williams will address the key changes recommended in its filings before the STB in this proceeding. The most important of those changes are:

- Enhanced Competition
 - Open gateways and limited open access
 - Provisions to allow challenges to bottleneck rates
- Service Assurances
- Adoption of a three phased merger review and approval process
- Greater merger implementation and oversight responsibilities for the Secretary of Transportation, assisted by an Advisory Panel reporting to the Secretary

The presentation is expected to require 5 to 10 minutes and will be made either by a Williams executive or by Mr. Charles King of Snavelly King Majoros O'Connor & Lee.

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We have provided the original and 25 copies of this filing. We would appreciate it if your staff would date stamp the second copy of this letter for return to us. Should questions arise, please call me at (202) 371-9149.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom O'Connor", written over the printed name.

Tom O'Connor
Vice President